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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

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# INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 49 VOLUME 13

For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)

■ **TOMORROW:** Annual Santa Claus Parade of Lights

## Guess who's coming to town

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Santa Claus will be arriving in Downtown Port Colborne tomorrow — just in time for the city's Santa Claus Parade of Lights.

About 35 groups have signed up to participate in the Santa Claus parade, which is scheduled to take place at 6:30 p.m. More entries are expected and will be accepted right up until the event.

Last year, the parade had nearly 60 entries, and while it made staging them all a

### Parade details

**What:** Santa Claus Parade of Lights

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 5; 6:30 p.m. start

**Route:** Starts from Port Colborne High School, heading down Steel St. to Clarence, onto West St., then onto Charlotte St. and ends in front of city hall.

bit difficult, no one has ever been turned away, said acting events manager Allaina Kane.

A few bands, including the West Seneca West Marching Band, will perform. A number of service groups will be participating, as well as the Port Colborne air cadets, Port Colborne Lions and the St. John Ambulance therapy dogs. Businesses are showing support for the festivities. The Mistry Kids will also be joining in.

Parade entries have been asked if they plan to hand out anything to the crowds that are expected to flock to downtown for the event. They are being told that candy is acceptable but not advertising materials. The final float will include the jolly ol' fellow, Santa.

The route will be the same as last year, starting from Port Colborne High School, heading down Steel St. to Clarence, onto West St., then onto Charlotte St. and ending in front of city hall. At city hall, kids can visit with Santa, share their wish list or warm up with hot chocolate.

People, organizations or businesses interested in participating can call Port Colborne Economic Tourism Development Corp. at 905-834-1668.

■ **SURF'S UP:** Tearing up the waves on Lake Erie



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

An unidentified surfer rides a wave in Lake Erie Saturday afternoon. A group of eight to 10 American and Canadian surfers were out in the windy and wavy conditions to ride one- to two-metre waves just east of Pleasant Beach Rd. in Port Colborne. Surfers can be found along Lake Erie's north shore from Wainfleet through to Fort Erie during the right weather conditions in the fall.

See Inside: **PUPP'S**  
**INSERTS**  
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# upfront

■ **TOMORROW:** Port to celebrate Santa's arrival

## Santa sails into town

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Santa Claus will sprinkle Christmas cheer along the canal Saturday as he arrives in Port Colborne via tugboat.

Jolly Old St. Nick will sail up the canal Saturday afternoon before docking on the canal wall just south of the Harbourmaster House on West St. He is expected to arrive sometime between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

His arrival will be celebrated with a performance by the McKay Public School choir, who will serenade the big man in the red suit.

Santa will then take a stroll down West St., greeting boys and girls of all ages on his way to Santa's Studio, 6 Clarence St.

The studio will be open from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. for patrons to enjoy complimentary fair trade hot chocolate provided by Ten Thousand Villages. Children will be provided goodie bags courtesy of various downtown businesses.

They can have their photo taken with Santa by professional photographer Precious LaPlante for \$5. Photos will be available for pick up at the studio between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Santa's arrival Saturday will come just in time for him to lead the final float of the annual Santa Claus parade, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Close to 50 children have already been received for the parade, said acting events manager, Allaina Kane

“Jolly Old St. Nick will sail up the canal Saturday afternoon before docking on the canal wall just south of the Harbourmaster House on West St.

of Port Colborne Economic Development Corp.

Along with dozens participating community groups, this year's parade will feature the award-winning West Seneca West Marching Band.

“They love coming and we just adore having them,” Kane said about the 44-member band.

The parade will also feature The Misty Kids from the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights. St. John therapy dogs, the Port Colborne air cadets and Port Colborne Lions.

“Port Colborne prides itself on community spirit,” Kane said, adding she expects the streets to be lined with smiling faces for the parade on Saturday.

The parade route is the same as last year, starting at Port Colborne High School, before moving down Steel St. to Clarence, then onto West St., Charlotte St., and ending in front of city hall.

Santa will be available for a meet and greet with children in the front entrance of city hall where they can share their holiday wishes and enjoy some hot chocolate, Kane said.

[mfirth@weellandtribune.ca](mailto:mfirth@weellandtribune.ca)

■ **HOLIDAY GIVING**



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Jennifer Fernandes, a volunteer from Ten Thousand Villages, holds some promotional material for the Living Gift program during an open house held Saturday to officially kick it off at the Port Colborne shop. The program allows customers to make donations of \$20 to \$398 to help people in developing countries. For instance, a donation of \$49 will buy a goat that will provide a family with milk for years; a \$398 donation will pay for a full backyard of animals.

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# portraits

## Welcome to Christmas past

MARK TAYTI  
InPort News Staff

What did families do at Christmas before DVDs, PlayStation and Wii?

On on Dec. 6, Christmas circa 1850 will be just a short drive away when Christmas returns to Marshville Village.

Marshville's Christmas in the Village is a chance to step back in time and enjoy the type of holiday celebration that pioneers and early settlers enjoyed.

Margaret Robertson, co-organizer of the annual event, said Marshville's Christmas in the Village affords families an opportunity to celebrate the season in "an old-fashioned way." The event began as a way to say thank you to the volunteers who help out during Marshville Heritage Festival, which is held each Labour Day weekend.

These days, Christmas in the Village draws about 1,000 people to the heritage village.

While the event is free, donations to help maintain the village are accepted in the PI Hall.

During the day, visitors are treated to apple cider over an open fire and an old-fashioned Christmas concert with the Marshville Heritage Choir in the schoolhouse.

There will be a sing-along in the church with the Peace River Band, a live nativity scene and strolling carolers. The blacksmith shop will be open and Santa's workshop will receive visitors throughout the afternoon.

"It would be nice if there is a little snow — but not too much," Robertson said. "We get a pretty good turnout, more if the weather is nice."

Robertson said Christmas in the Village has been going on for about 16 years and the theme is Christmas in the 1850s.

The event would not be possible without the help of volunteers, who spend about a month planning and getting ready for the afternoon outing, she said.

"Robertson said there is an "elegant" appeal to the event.

There will be homemade soup, wild rice and Christmas pudding and tea, hot chocolate and gingerbread will be served in the PI Hall.

Robertson said the afternoon outing is like a living history lesson and offers a glimpse of what it was like for our ancestors to celebrate Christmas.

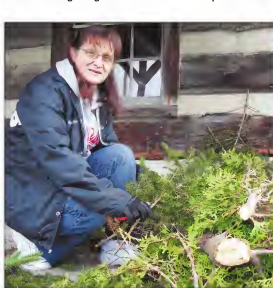
The village will open at 1 p.m. and will remain open until 4:30 p.m. Marshville Heritage Village is located in the heart of Wainfleet, near the Wainfleet Arena.



Ken Dayboll stokes the fire in the log cabin at Marshville heritage village.



Nancy Thompson, co-organizer of Marshville's Christmas in the Village, and Marilyn Williams pose with an antique doll, the type an early settler's child might have received at Christmas.



Linda Carson decorated Marshville buildings with freshly cut pine branches to set the mood for the upcoming Christmas in the Village.



Cheryl Boudreau decorates a tree in Santa's workshop.

# INPORT NEWS

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## ourview

### Embrace the spirit of giving

**I**f there is one thing this recession has taught us, it's that our shopping lists don't have to be based on expensive wants. They can be based on needs, especially during times when financial situations aren't at their prime.

With high unemployment rates, people looking for jobs and parents just scraping by, Christmas can be a difficult time of year.

Christmas is less than a month away, and parents and teens are shopping for gifts for their loved ones. Many donate to local organizations that provide food and toys for those in need.

However, we can't forget about those who have much less than we do. Those who can't afford to go to school, those who don't have regular meals or a regular job.

Thanks to the Mennonite Central Committee's 2009 Living Gifts program, people living in Guatemala, Bangladesh, Kenya or other poor countries, will have more blessings. The program is offered through Ten Thousand Villages on Clarence St. and gives us six options to purchase items in need.

The options include a \$20 give green gift which provides tools, vegetable seeds, fertilizer and training for a Guatemalan farmer.

Giving education costs \$26 and provides a student with a school uniform and helps them purchase textbooks.

Christmas is \$40 and provides a goat and its care in places like Bangladesh, Palestine and Kenya.

For \$51 you can provide a Nigerian person with three months of antiretroviral treatment.

For those who have more to spend, a \$300 gift of education can provide a year of Global Family sponsorship to provide creative, community-based education for children and young adults.

And lastly, one could fill a barnyard with animals for \$380 to help families develop flocks and herds.

The recent recession has proven that it's not how much you have, it's what you need. Millions of people around the world don't have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. They don't think of the next video game or movie release. They think of when their next meal will come, or if their crop will survive another drought to feed their family.

A living gift is the perfect gift for someone who has everything. These gifts meet simple human needs for good health and decent living.

Ten Thousand Villages also has a wide variety of fair trade products ranging from coffee, chocolate, Christmas ornaments and decorations.

These items are made from sustainable farming or made by artisans who receive fair pay for their work.

If you've never been in the store, Christmas time might be the perfect time to browse through the store and see the unique gift ideas.

## HOSPITAL AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER



Supplied Photo

A quilt donated by the Port Colborne Quilt and Stitchery Guild to the Port Colborne Hospital Auxiliary to raise funds was won by Melanie Emburg. Jo Clements, co-president of the auxiliary presented the quilt to Emburg with co-president Sharon Lea vere.

## readers'views

### Estimates for sports centre costs seem way out in left field

There is something puzzling about the multi-use centre costs.

Doing web searches on the cost per square foot area for this construction, the numbers appear to be wrong. The cost calculates to \$212.14 per square foot area, which is far greater than the \$157 per square foot area for similar construction elsewhere.

Since the citizen taxpayer foots the bill for this, it is suggested that council do its own web searches in future to determine the actual costs of building this type of centre. Or has the city bundled in overrun costs in the estimates?

Why pay consultants when the information is free in the public domain? As a starting point as to how things go wrong and to see how costs escalated in Cornwall, see: [www.standard-freeholder.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?c=1916486](http://www.standard-freeholder.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?c=1916486).

There are also details of cost-saving measures which are applicable to Port's project.

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## WORLD ISSUES

### Cypress: It's over



Gwynne Dyer

**T**he window of opportunity actually slammed shut in 2004, when Greek-Cypriot voters overwhelmingly rejected a United Nations plan to reunite the divided island of Cyprus. A week later, the Greek-Cypriot government was allowed to join the European Union anyway, while the Turkish-Cypriots, who had voted in favour of the reunification plan, were frozen out. But some people just won't give up.

A year ago, with new leadership on both sides, the Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots embarked on another round of talks aimed at reunifying the island. As late as this September, Alexander Downer, the UN secretary-general's special adviser on Cyprus, said that "what you have here are two leaders who are very committed to a successful outcome." But good intentions are not enough.

Dimitris Christofias, the Greek-Cypriot president, and Mehmet Ali Talat, his Turkish-Cypriot counterpart, are old friends, and they both genuinely want to put the country back together, but they have made little progress. After 40 meetings, time is running out. The UN negotiations in the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC) in April, and the new president there is likely to be hostile to reunification.

Last time, in 2004, it was the Greek-Cypriot president who persuaded the voters on his side of dividing line to reject the UN proposal. There are bound to be times when one side or the other is led by somebody who wants to die in the last ditch. But there are also bound to be intervals, like the present one, when the leaders on both sides are in favour of unification.

So why talk of windows of opportunity shutting? Even if it doesn't happen now, surely it will happen sooner or later. Alas, not necessarily.

Geopolitical maelstroms normally change as slowly as the continents drift, but the tectonic plates are now moving fast in the eastern Mediterranean. The chance of Turkey ever joining the European community is now shrinking rapidly towards zero — and without the incentive of that goal, why would Ankara ever force the Turkish population of North Cyprus back into a union with the Greek-dominated Republic of Cyprus?



■ GWYNNE DYER

# No chance for united Cyprus

FROM PAGE 4

The current obstacle to EU membership for Turkey, which first applied to join 22 years ago and has been an official candidate for the past decade, is the opposition of the German, Austrian and French governments. They are all conservative governments that believe a Muslim-majority country has no place in what they still see as a "Christian" Europe.

That is largely nonsense, but not necessarily a deal-breaker: those governments will probably be replaced one day by others that take a more relaxed view of religious differences. After all, a clear majority of EU citizens are not interested in religion at all. Greece and the Republic of Cyprus would also veto Turkish membership today, but a deal between the two Cypriot communities would obviously remove that roadblock.

If anti-Muslim prejudice were the only obstacle to Turkey's entry, then it could still become a EU member one of these days, but the tectonic shift is not driven by whoever is in power today in Paris, Berlin or Vienna. It is driven by a growing concern in the EU that global warming is going to generate huge numbers of desperate refugees in Africa and the Middle East — "climate refugees" who will end up trying to get into Europe.

Never mind if this is the main, or even if it is an accurate, vision of the future. If this view comes to prevail in the EU, the just question becomes: where do we hold the line against waves of climate refugees? Should we try to control the current frontier along the eastern borders of Greece and Bulgaria (about 300 km, 175 miles), or bring Turkey into the EU and try to control 1,100 km (750 miles) of borders with Syria, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Georgia? Not rocket science, is it?

Unless it is overwhelmed by climate change, Turkey will be all right outside the EU. It will overtake Germany in population within a decade, and it already has a higher per capita income than several Eastern European mem-

bers of the EU. Turkey was a second-rank great power until the end of the 19th century, and it is likely to be back in that role by the mid-21st.

But if that is the role Turkey will be playing in another generation, why would it want to withdraw its troops from North Cyprus and push the Turkish-Cypriots into a single state with the Greek-Cypriots now? Why would the Turkish-Cypriots themselves want to resume their place as an unloved minority in a Greek-run state, rather than retain their own state in close association with the rising regional great power?

The reply to that question 10 years ago would have been: because Turkish-Cypriots are so poor. But the past decade has seen very rapid economic growth in North Cyprus. The gulf in living standards between the two parts of the island has dramatically narrowed, so reunification no longer seems the only escape from poverty to Turkish-Cypriots.

This is not the last chance for the reunification of Cyprus: 2004 was. Greek-speaking Cyprus is prosperous and secure, Turkish-speaking Cyprus is approaching the same state, and Turkey itself no longer has an incentive to support the creation of a reunified, federal state in Cyprus.

Partition is permanent. It's over.

Gwynne Dyer's latest book, *Climate Wars*, was published recently in Canada by Random House and Vintage.



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## Ask the HEALTH EXPERT

DR. JULIAN WHITAKER, M.D.



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**I want to avoid medication and do something natural.**

Blood pressure is the force of your blood moving through the veins and arteries. To keep your circulation constant and normal, your blood vessels must dilate and contract—and every organ in your body (especially your heart) depends on this rhythmic flow through these vessels.

There are many steps you can take to maintain healthy blood pressure. Take a good multi-nutrient supplement (like Forward Plus), follow a diet that's low in saturated fat and starchy foods, get regular exercise, reduce stress in your life as much as possible, and drink lots of clean, pure water.

We need to consider the factor called "ACE." ACE is the enzyme that makes the blood vessels constrict. They must be relaxed for your blood to flow freely—and good circulation is necessary for maintaining healthy blood pressure. We need to lower ACE. With lower levels of ACE we have relaxed blood vessels.

Luckily there are ways to inhibit ACE naturally. It's so important to limit the action of ACE I have found a unique way to help inhibit ACE with a fish protein powder from Japan, and he's made it the foundation of this advanced BP Essentials formula.

If you're doing these things, and they're working for you, but by all means stick with them. But if you need more blood pressure support, you may want to take advantage of the latest nutritional solutions—all of which you'll find in BP Essentials. It's the most complete formula yet created to help support normal healthy blood pressure.

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## I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Are you a cave dweller or a mountain climber?

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK  
For InPort News

You may remember the story of Elijah challenging the false prophets on Mount Carmel, God giving that victory and the people crying out "The Lord is God."

Then, a short time later, Elijah runs from a woman and finally says "Lord, take my life." The question to be asked is how could this same man, this mighty prophet of God, plummet from such a victory to such despair in such a short time.

Exhaustion can cause a setback. Elijah had just run a virtual marathon top speed

all the way. His resources were depleted. How does God deal with him? He understands him. He granted Elijah bread and water. Elijah needed to eat to be replenished, to carry on. For he was told that the journey was too much for him. Without God's grace and strength, no Christian would ever make it.

When Elijah was in that cave, he thought that he was the only one with these problems. We think the same way, that we are the only ones who go through these trials — especially if and when we are in the cave of darkness, defeat and despair.

The devil will try to knock you off the mountain, to push you under the juniper tree or to throw you into a cave. Especially if you are stressed, tired or sick. He will

then attack you more relentlessly and the darkness can be overwhelming.

Guides will take tourists deep below the Earth as they pass through various caves. They turn off the lights and it is so dark that people can't see their hands in front of their faces. They are helpless, they feel hopeless and can actually go insane.

Sometimes God will turn off the lights, so we can walk by faith and not by sight. Sometimes he will even temporarily abandon his own people. The greatest example of this when the Lord Jesus cried out upon the cross, "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me!" That was the darkest cave of all. Yet this darkness gave way to the brilliant light of his resurrection.

See I'VE BEEN THINKING | Page 7



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Donations received by December 11th, 2009 will be published in a special issue December 19th, 2009 Tribuna. Donations can be made until December 31st, 2009 and will be published in January 2010. All donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt. Charitable Registration No. 89940 2697 #R0001. Proceeds will be used for the Port Colborne Hospital Site. Thank You!

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## I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Put on your spiritual boots and climb

FROM PAGE 6

Some say that the Lord was born in a cave in Bethlehem. We know that he died on Mount Calvary — the Mount Everest of any trial. And Jesus climbed that mountain alone.

Mountain climbers need the right equipment and special boots for traction. They join themselves together with ropes. They are a team; if one falls, they hold each other up. They follow a lead climber who is well experienced. They need a compass. They certainly do not want to get lost as they encounter severe storms. They need a pick axe to not slip and fall to death. They get scrapes and bruises but keep going. They accept the challenge and rise to the occasion. They plant a flag at the top and say, "conquered."

We need spiritual boots. We have spiritual traction as our feet are shod with the gospel of peace. We have ropes. We are a team. When one sorrow, we sorrow with them; when one rejoices, we rejoice with them. Our compass is the word of God. It gives us daily direction. Our pick axe is the sword of the spirit which gives us sure footing. We must always keep looking up to Jesus, our lead climber who blazed the trail before us. He planted the flag — the cross — there. But the cross is now empty as he conquered sin, death, hell and the devil.

Are you on the mountain or is the mountain on you? Come out of the cave and climb, always looking to Jesus. Be the mountain climber that God has called you to be.



LARRY BOGGIO  
R.P.H. & S.C. PHOS. (owner)



DONNIE EDWARDS  
R.P.H. & S.C. PHOS.

## Cough &amp; Cold Season

Cough and Cold season is here again. There are many questions about which medication is the best to treat cold symptoms. Unfortunately we have no cure for a stuffy head, runny nose, cough, and sore throat, but there are ways to treat these symptoms. For children under six, it is best not to use traditional cold medications. They don't work well, and often cause more unwanted side effects than benefit. Tylenol or Advil should be used to treat fever and help with discomfort. Administer plenty of fluids to help loosen congestion. Saline nasal sprays and drops can be used to loosen mucus as well as gentle suctioning. A vaporizer in the child's room can make breathing easier, but remember to change the water daily to avoid the growth of moulds and bacteria. Turn down the heat in the house. Warm dry air can be more difficult to breathe and cause irritation. Opening a window in the child's room is also helpful. A teaspoon of honey can help settle a cough at night time, but don't give to children less than one year of age (they don't have the proper gut flora to protect against possible botulism). Topical rubs such as Vicks vapor rub contain menthol, camphor and eucalyptus. They can provide a feeling of being able to breathe easier, but they should be applied sparingly and under a shirt to avoid contact with eyes and mouth. Camphor should not be used in children under two as there are concerns about absorption and liver damage. For adults there are many products to choose from. Again, side effects caused by the medication can be worse than the cold. All of the non-medical suggestions used for kids can also be effective for adults. Decongestants like pseudoephedrine, are generally not recommended for patients with high blood pressure. There is a product called Coricidin that does help with congestion and is safe for people with high blood pressure. For cough due to cold, a product with an antihistamine-decongestant combo works quite well. Find one with a first generation antihistamine in it like brompheniramine, an example would be Drixoral cold and sinus. Naproxen (now available in Canada without a prescription) can also help with a cough due to it's anti-inflammatory properties. Cough syrups with dextromethorphan may help with a cough and are generally safe for everyone to take. Some syrups have an expectorant in them called guaifenesin, which is useful to help loosen mucus. In general it does not make much sense to buy a product with both of these ingredients in it. If you want to get rid of mucus in your chest, you don't want an ingredient to suppress your cough. Narcotic cough medications work the best to settle a cough but require a prescription from your doctor. Make sure you understand what all of the ingredients are in your cold medication. Often they will contain Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen). You don't want to take more than the recommended doses of those medications. However, you do want to take some Tylenol or Advil, they are both effective at treating fever and a sore throat. A cold is much different than the flu. The flu presents with fatigue, body aches, fever and sometimes a cough. A cold is associated with runny nose, sore throat, and cough. Although a cold makes us uncomfortable, generally the symptoms are manageable. The best thing to do is use a mixture of old-fashioned remedies, cough and cold products, and rest as much as possible. The flu (especially this year) can be life threatening. It is not treatable with over the counter medications. If you suspect you may have the flu, you should see a physician. As always the best treatment is prevention. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly and stay home if you are sick.

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## along the lakeshore

**Dec. 4:** Friends Over 55 at 554 Fielden Ave. is holding its annual Christmas tea from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. For more info call 905-835-1731.

The Port Colborne Gateway Association is holding the third annual Come to the North event at Lock & Gateway Park to meet Mrs. Claus at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy free beverages and snacks while listening to a special story being read by Mrs. Claus and write a personal letter to Santa.

**Dec. 5:** Art's Place Gallery is holding an open house and reception at the gallery from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for its new Humbug exhibit, set to run until Jan. 10.

**Dec. 6:** The Marshville Heritage Society is holding its annual Christmas in the Village from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. featuring treatments for the whole family. Visitors are invited to experience a taste of Christmas past with soup, Christmas pudding and older while strolling through Father Christmas' carpenter shop. Children can decorate gingerbread cookies, while the family enjoys a concert in the schoolhouse, music of the season in the

church and take part in a Victorian tea, free will offering for the afternoon.

**Dec. 10:** The Spirit of Christmas is being held at 7 p.m. at the Port Colborne Country Club and promises a night of live entertainment, food, raffles, silent auctions and games with net proceeds of the event being donated to Port Cares and Santa's Helpers. The event will feature a cash bar, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment featuring the Razorbars. Tickets are \$30.00 and are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

The Port Colborne hospital auxiliary is holding a bake sale in the main lobby of the hospital from 9 a.m. until items sell out.

**Dec. 11:** Wainfleet creative crafters are holding a craft and bake sale in the Moore Room at the Wainfleet Arena on Friday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Holly Smith at 905-835-6843.

**Dec. 20:** Will this Christmas be difficult because you have experienced the loss of a loved one or some other loss? Receive God's comfort and peace at healing for the grieving at 7 p.m. at Forks Road East United Church, 51786 Forks Rd., Wainfleet. Call 905-899-1218 or visit [www.forksroadunited.com](http://www.forksroadunited.com).

**Jan. 22:** The Port Colborne Horticultural Society will

be holding its monthly meeting at the Senior's Centre. Just in time to bring some sunshine and warmth into the cold winter, is guest special Von Doucet who will speaking on orchids. Light refreshments will be available and remember, bring a friend.

**Ongoing events**

• **Tuesdays at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.** 200 Eric St. The Port Colborne Air Cadets will hold open registrations during their training nights from 6:45 to 9 p.m. The cadets are available for boys and girls between the ages of 12 to 18. For more information, contact John Derosue at 905-227-7603 and visit [www.cadets.ca](http://www.cadets.ca).

• **Adult Children of Alcoholics** is an anonymous 12 step program and support group for persons who grew up with alcohol or drug addiction. Meetings Fridays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Central United Church, 30 Delhi St. Newcomers welcome.

• **Kids zone** for children six to 12 runs Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave. to June 18, 2010. \$5 registration fee. Free transportation available. Call 905-835-8941 ext. 135. Events are supervised by adults.

• **Teen zone** for youths 13 to 18 every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Reach Out Center, 60 Nickel St. to June 20, 2010. \$5 registration fee. Free transportation is available. Call 905-835-8941 ext. 135. Adult supervised events, in cooperation with Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet and Port Cares. Enjoy games, trips to the YMCA, cooking, crafts, music etc.

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## localbrief

### STUDENTS FOCUS ON FAIR TRADE

WELLAND — Students at Notre Dame College School spent the past week helping ensure that people in developing countries are adequately compensated for their work.

The secondary school's fair trade club organized a fair trade week at the school, including several events designed to draw attention to the

plight of people in developing countries.

"We've had posters all over the school, we've had announcements every morning saying what fair trade is," said Deighton Edwards, a Grade 9 student and fair trade club member.

She said club members created a video "to the point of raising awareness of how much of a difference fair trade products make" to the people of developing countries. And Wednesday, that video was shown for her fellow Grade 9 students.

"We were trying to show the students how fair trade is better than free trade," said fellow club member Melissa Della Smirna.

Yesterday, the students gave their classmates a taste of just how delicious fair trade can be.

Edwards said as many as 20 students pitched in to bake cookies and other treats using fair trade products — providing the people in developing countries who created them with fair compensation for their labour.

The bake table, set up in the school's cafeteria, was part of a fair trade fair held yesterday morning.

Ten Thousand Villages, a Port Colborne business that specializes in all sorts of Fair Trade products, also participated in the fair, with a table set up in the school's foyer.

"Notre Dame is really active in fair trade," said Tracy Tarran from Ten Thousand Villages. "They've got the energy and the drive to do it."

Teacher Carol Berkhout said many students go on to work in the social justice field after being exposed to the issues at the high school.

"Between fair trade and pilgrimage, we tend to touch a lot of kids. They get the idea of working with people beyond our own community," she said. Students also were impressed with the new students who have joined the group this year.

"I can't tell you the enthusiasm from the Grade 9 students this year. It's been overwhelming. The potential of what these kids can do in the next four years is exciting."

Proceeds from the sale of the fair trade baked goods will be used to help other international programs such as the Dominican Canadian Community Development Group, Berkhout said.

—Allan Benner, Tribune Staff



## NEIGHBOURHOOD TREE DECORATING Event!

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## library activities

- Port Colborne library activities:
- Tai Chi: Can improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays 6:30-8:00 p.m. Call 905-321-9536.
  - Yoga with Heather Jones at the Port Colborne Public Library, New Session: gentle beginners from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Call Heather at 905-892-6936.
  - Express Yourself: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Kitty Roy. Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent, and copyrights. Contact the facilitators by e-mail at [gray@ecogeco.ca](mailto:gray@ecogeco.ca) or call the library at 905-834-6512.
  - Stories and crafts. For ages six and under. Thursdays 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. until Dec. 3. Cost: \$2. Pre-register at the library. Parents are required to stay with children younger than three.
  - Cocoa Craft Club. For ages eight to 13 on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Stories, activities, games, crafts and a mug of cocoa. Cost: \$2. pre-register at the library.
  - Films for Seniors. Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1:30 p.m., the last film for 2009. Free refreshments and free admission. Films for

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Back, left to right: Stephanie, Brenda, Helen, Tamara

## ■ BUSINESS AFTER FIVE



MAGGIE RIOPELLE Staff Photo

Staples Express in Port Colborne hosted Business After Five with the Port Colborne/Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce. From left, chamber office manager Edith Wagner, Staples owner Frank Caruso, and chamber president Donna Martens Gamm.

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## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR AN ORDER TO CLOSE A CEMETERY

The Cemeteries Act (Revised), RSO 1990, Chapter C4

NORTHLAND GARDENS COLUMBARIUM, Part Lot 30, Con 2 in the former Township of Humberstone, in the former County of Niagara now known as 480 Northland Avenue, City of Port Colborne, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Province of Ontario.

Ontario Cemetery License # 4455242

Ontario Cemetery Site #05077

This cemetery consists of one – 32 niche columbarium and the total area dimension is 20 feet by 20 feet. There are ten niches sold with seven innuments. The interment rights holders have agreed in writing for the columbarium and remains to be moved to Overholt Cemetery (License # 3289377) located at 3 rd. Line in the City of Port Colborne.

This closure is proposed due to the fact that St. Brendan's the Navigator Anglican Church has been closed and the land has been sold.

There are no ground burials or scattering gardens associated with Northland Gardens Columbarium.

TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to the Cemeteries Act (Revised), R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C4, the undersigned intends to make an application for an order closing the entire cemetery.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, the applicant will request that the Registrar include in the Order to Close, the requirement to move the columbarium and all remains to Overholt Cemetery in Port Colborne. This will include the transfer of all records and care and maintenance funds to Overholt Cemetery.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, interested persons may make submissions regarding the proposed application in writing to:

Registrar, Cemeteries Act (Revised)  
Ministry of Consumer Services  
Cemeteries Regulation Unit  
5775 Yonge Street, Suite 1500  
Toronto, ON M7A 2E5

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, submissions should be made within 45 days from January 1, 2010.

Dated at the City of Port Colborne, Ontario on January 1, 2010

APPLICANT:

The Anglican Diocese of Niagara  
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135" \$4477

140" \$4677

145" \$4877

150" \$5077

155" \$5277

160" \$5477

165" \$5677

170" \$5877

175" \$6077

180" \$6277

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190" \$6677

195" \$6877

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■ **CITY PLANNING:** Bylaw would permit parking of recreational vehicles in front yards

## Official plan unveiling sparks debate

MARK TAYTI  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — The public got its first look at a bylaw that could be coming to a neighbourhood near you.

In trying to revisit an old problem, council could just end up setting neighbour against neighbour.

A public hearing under the planning act was held Monday, Nov. 23 to address the problem of parking boats, recreational vehicles and trailers in front yards — on properties where there is no access to a side yard.

The new bylaw would permit parking such vehicles in front yards as long as they were set back 1.5 metres from the property line. Parking would only be allowed between May 1 and Oct. 31. Special conditions would apply for corner lots.

While some residents welcomed the changes, others clearly did not. Port Colborne resident Emily Kovach responded by

letter, complete with photographs showing how his view of the neighbourhood is completely blocked on one side by an RV parked next his house. Kovach said despite complaints to the city, nothing has been done to uphold the existing bylaw.

Earlier this year, council set aside enforcing the existing bylaw while staff reviewed the issue.

Karen Munday, a Sugarloaf Ave. resident, was also against changes that would allow RV parking in front yards to resume.

Munday said the proposal represented "poor planning" on the part of the city. She raised safety concerns with respect to restricted sight lines when drivers pull out of the driveway onto the road.

Munday said the plan did not take enforcement into consideration. She also said it is unlikely the city would ever be able to prosecute someone in contravention of the bylaw or reach a successful outcome in court.

Dan Marx, who spoke at the meeting, felt the city's decision to allow the front yard parking of recreational vehicles was "a good compromise."

Currently, residents are not allowed to park RV or boats or trailers in their front yard.

Marx uses his RV and trailer during the racing season and stores it off-residence during the off-season. He said a lot of locals are members of the racing community, but as the bylaw is currently structured, he is unable to load his trailer at his home without breaking the law.

Marx agreed there should be a setback for safety reasons.

The report will now go back to council with a recommendation attached. It will be up to council to decide how to address the issue.

mtayti@wellandtribune.ca

■ **FERAL CAT INITIATIVE**

## 'Nine lives, not nine litters'

Tribune Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — The Port Colborne Feral Cat Initiative was in council chambers on Monday Nov. 23 looking for a little more scratch.

Councilor Bill Mallinson asked council for consideration of another \$5,000 in the city's 2010 budget deliberations. Council granted the grant \$5,000 in 2009 to undertake a trap, neuter and release program to get control of the city's feral cat population.

In providing an update Monday night, Mallinson-Vogel said the initiative met with great success in the past 12 months.

She said a total of 54 cats had been trapped and spayed or neutered and there are another 74 on the waiting list. She said the group was able to successfully fundraise more than \$6,700.

While most of the funds went to veterinary bills, she said current funds available total almost \$7,000.

"Cats should have nine lives, not nine litters," Mallinson-Vogel told council.

She said a low-cost spay-neuter clinic is key to resolving the problem.

The group is currently in discussions with Welland and District Humane Society to partner on the adoption of young, socialized feral kittens. The group is also hoping to partner with a pet food manufacturer to help with the cost of feeding the feral cat colonies.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters, who has been supportive of the program, thanked the group for its commitment over the past year.

"What they said they would, they have done," Butters said. "People have stepped forward and are care taking the colonies. We are getting a handle on it. If we did nothing, the costs would rise exponentially."

Butters said investing in the feral cat initiative is the surest way to fight the rising cost of animal control.

## DENTURE CENTRE

### Preventing Fungal Infections for Denture Wearers

Contrary to popular belief, life with a denture is not life without dentistry. There are quite special oral health concerns for people who wear dentures, and Candida infection is one of them.

Candida is a yeast-like fungus present in the mouths of about 30% of adults, and in nearly half of all denture wearers. It doesn't cause much trouble when the denture fits well, mouth tissue is healthy, immune system intact and nutritional needs are satisfied.

But an ill-fitting denture, or bad denture habits, can adversely affect both nutrition and oral tissues, and open the door to Candida invasion.

It happens fast. Candida can spread over a denture in just 30 minutes! Since Candida actually permeates the acrylic liner of the denture, chronic infection can occur. The common result is denture stomatitis, that is red inflamed sores under the denture. Stomatitis will discourage from wearing the denture at all.

How to resist infection? Keep your mouth tissues in top condition. Remove your dentures more often, especially at night. Let's try to determine what elements of your diet might contribute to fungus growth. Best of all, have us evaluate your denture fit. In severe or chronic cases you may need to see your doctor.

Of course, life with a denture can be full and vigorous. But remember, your oral health will always need attention, denture or no denture.

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Daria Zmijewsky  
Director of Advertising

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## ■ WELL BEING

## Mental health seminars continue

InPort News Staff

Another year of Tune Into Mental Health seminars have begun and organizers are hoping for high turnouts to help inform the public of a wide variety of mental health issues.

The seminars were first held four years ago with Fort Erie and Port Cares in Crystal Beach and the Port Colborne General Hospital. This year, seminars are being held throughout Niagara with a wide variety of specialists.

"These are organizations who have specific information to help you," said Judy Cowan, client care manager for Port Cares. "We found the numbers were very, very high. We were shocked at the number of people that came out."

She said the seminars are held to increase awareness while educating those who either have experienced mental health problems, or know of someone suffering.

"The series touches on areas from drug abuse to bullying, suicide and stigma," she said. "Presenters are very specific to their topics. They are very informative presentations and people can stay later and talk to get more information."

## Upcoming seminars

- Youth, drugs and mental health by Darryl Upfold, clinical psychological associate, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Library's Judy LaMarsh room;
- Suicide talk with Stacy Terry of the Distress Centre, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Port Colborne General Hospital's McKel-Hall;
- Solving the Anger Puzzle with Julie Christiansen of Anger Solutions on Jan. 13, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Canadian Mental Health Association, 36 Page St., St. Catharines;
- Trauma: Helping parents and caregivers help their teen who may have been traumatized by Erine Andrews, art therapist with Niagara Child and Youth Services on Jan. 27, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Bridges Community Health Centre, 1465 Garrison Rd. Port Erie;
- Depression, anxiety and self harm by the Niagara Child and Youth Services Feb. 3, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Library;
- Drug use and abuse by Donnie Edwards of Boggio Pharmacy Feb. 18, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Port Colborne General Hospital;
- Kids and the Internet by Jeannie Makund of Way2Click on March 5, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Canadian Mental Health Association, 36 Page St., St. Catharines;
- Mental health and the family by Dr. Abraham, psychiatrist, March 24, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Bridges Community Health Centre;
- Marijuana abuse and psychosis by Dr. Suzanne Archie of the department of psychiatry and neuroscience at McMaster University, April 7, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Library;
- Schizophrenia and psychosis — reaching out by Jill Dennison, of the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, April 28, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Port Colborne Hospital;
- Stigma and mental health, May 5, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., hosted by Sarah Cannon of parents for children's mental health and David Carmichael at the Canadian Mental Health Association, 36 Page St., St. Catharines.



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## ■ CHRISTMAS GIVING: Locals can drop off items at various Port locations

## Santa's Helpers hope for donations

KAESHA FORAND

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — For years, Santa's Helpers has helped make Christmas complete for families who can't always afford to put gifts under the tree.

It has also helped families put a complete meal on the table to help celebrate the festive time of year.

Organizer Micke Van Es is collecting items for this year's Santa's Helpers and has received donations of stuffed animals, shoes, games, hand-knitted mittens, canned goods, toiletries and cash donations.

Drop-off bins are located at Port Colborne grocery stores and local banks. Re/Max Realty on the corner of Killaly and Elm Sts. is accepting donations and TD Canada Trust has its mitten tree with gifts below.

The main drop-off location is Community Living on McEae St., which also serves as registration and pickup headquarters.

Low-income families can register for the program Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and must show proof of residency. A pickup day will be scheduled where the family can return to collect a food basket with two days of food, a ham, clothing and toys.

Last year 350 households registered for the program which also provided gifts for more than 500 children.

To help make the program successful, donations of cash, toys, games and toiletries are needed for children from newborn to 16 years.

Cash donations go towards the purchase of gift certificates from local stores for teens and also to help purchase food. Any donation of more than \$10 with the person's name and address will receive a tax receipt.

Van Es said unlike in previous years, supporters such as John Deere won't be providing large donations. With households tightening their budgets, she hopes people will be extra generous in donating.

"The program costs thousands and we carefully budget," she said.

Donations come from schools, churches, service clubs and businesses, among others.

Van Es has co-ordinated the project for more than 10 years and has seen the positive effect Santa's Helpers has



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Micke Van Es has begun collecting donations for this year's Santa's Helpers program to help ensure hundreds of families have gifts under the Christmas tree and food on the table.

on families.

"They are very grateful," she said. "I'm anxious to get going."

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

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**Santa Claus (The North Pole) c/o The Tribune,  
228 East Main St., Welland, ON L3B 3W8.**

**(Letters will be typeset as submitted).**

When you send your letter to Santa in care of The Tribune not only will Santa learn your Christmas wishes but so will the readers of The Tribune including Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunts and Uncles.

**AS A SPECIAL BONUS:** All letters received with the attached ballot will be divided into girls' and boys' letters and will be placed in categories based upon age (3-5, 6-8, 9-11 years). From these ballots, 6 winning names will be drawn on December 18th and announced on December 21st, the lucky 3 girls and 3 boys will each receive...

...A Christmas gift pack of presents (approx... value \$50.00)

#### Entry Rules:

1. Letters may be no longer than **50 WORDS** and must include the child's full name, address and phone number.
2. All letters must include a **completed ballot**. No copies or facsimiles will be accepted, and all ballots must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Proof of identification is required upon claiming prizes. Prizes must be accepted as awarded (no cash substitutions). Employees of The Tribune and their immediate families are NOT eligible to win.
4. All entries received become the property of The Tribune. The Tribune reserves the right to reject, publish, edit or reduce said entries as needed.
5. Entrants also agree to the publication of their names. Entrants may enter as often as they wish; however, additional letters may not appear in "Letters To Santa".



**THE TRIBUNE**

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**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILD'S AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIG.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LETTERS TO  
SANTA ENTRY  
BALLOT**

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY DEADLINES: DEC. 7 FOR DEC. 11 PUBLICATION -  
DEC. 14 FOR DEC. 18 PUBLICATION**

## ■ ATOM BASKETBALL

### CT Whalers nip Davidson's Funeral Home Raptors 37-24

InPort News Staff

This week's atom basketball game of the week saw CT Whalers down the Davidson Funeral Home Raptors 37-24.

Mike Benson and Ethan Scott poured in 14 and 13 points respectively for the Whalers. Baxter Pearson added four; Sencia Lampman, Danielle Mack and Jonathan Gamble all added two points apiece.

Matt Traynor led the Raptors with 10 points followed by Amanda Lallouette's six and David Biggar's four. Katrina Arcand and Hannah Peyton chipped in with two points.

In other league action, Jared Thullen, Noah Cheverette and Tessa Sherk combined for 34 points to lead the Knights of Columbus Lakers to a 52-41 victory over the Sheas Service Centre Grizzlies. Steve Wilcox and Max Gelka each added eight and Danielle Blodreau chipped in a bucket for the Lakers.

Michael Pomkowski paced the Grizzlies with 19, followed by Dylan Balogh's 12. Autumn-Rae Billy and Sydney Garon each had four points. Hannah Donofrio played tough defence all game and added a bucket to complete the Grizzly scoring.

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## ■ PETS

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Ask lots of questions to find out if this breed of dog's temperament will suit you, your family and your lifestyle. Some breeds thrive on being worked and exercised daily. If not, they could become troublesome because they are bored. They invent their own games which may include destroying items in the house.

Other breeds prefer to be indoors and rest most of the time. They don't want a lot of activity. Some breeds need a lot of personal care, which can become expensive, while others are low maintenance dogs.

Find out which breeds are great with kids and elderly family members. Also find out what breeds are not good with kids or strangers.

Some dogs can live nicely with other dogs in the house, while others are better off and better suited to be the only dog.

Weather conditions can affect many breeds. Some don't do well outside if it is too hot, too

cold, too wet or too windy. Other breeds don't care what the weather is like, as long as they get to go out for a walk or run daily.

A great many breeds look really beautiful as pictured in the dog books. But it takes hours of work grooming these dogs to look that way. Many of these breeds need to see a professional groomer every two months to keep them looking good. If a breed also be too much work or expense, you may choose to pass on it and consider another low maintenance breed.

All breeds of dogs have inherited health problems. Some of these problems may be minor but others may be life-threatening problems, so check carefully. Find out what the problems are for the breeds that you are interested in.

Each breed also has diseases that are common for that breed. Again, some may be serious while others are small problems.

So, do your homework and find out first before buying. If you are told by a breeder that their dogs have no problems, don't buy there.

Move on and find a breeder that will be honest with you and tell the good, the bad and everything else.

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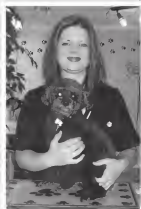
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Corner of Maple Ave. and Prince Charles Drive

SPECIALS in effect Fri. Dec. 4th to closing Thurs. Dec. 10th, 2009 • OPEN SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5, MON., TUES., WED. 9-6, THURS-FRI, 9-9

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**GREEN GIANT VEGETABLES**  
PEAS, CORN, NIBLETS,  
GREEN OR WAX BEANS  
12/14 oz. can



**\$1**  
12 CAN LIMIT

**WONDER WHITE BREAD**  
675 g loaf



**1.49**  
6 loaf limit

**STONE CREEK DAIRY ICE CREAM**  
1.89 litre tub



**3/\$10**

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680 ml can **\$1**

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28 oz. can **\$1**

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227 g box **\$1**

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAY ONLY  
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**SWEET ONIONS**  
1 lb. **99¢**

No. 1 Grade Idaho  
**BBQ BABY SPINACH**  
1 lb. **3.99**

■ BY GEORGE

## Christmas comes to Guild Hall



GEORGE DUMA  
InPort News  
Photo

The Port Cares Reach Out Centre's tree, right, won top honours at last weekend's Christmas tree decorating contest. The event helped raise funds for Guild Hall.

FROM PAGE 23

The brush with potential death has also strengthened his spirituality.

"When you're on the edge of life and death, you realize God has a plan. I thank God constantly." Saracino has been overwhelmed at the outpouring of affection and good wishes from the community. "The cards, the people telling me they're praying for me, I'm so delighted."

He's also thankful for his friends. "People like Doug Hart, Pat Sutich, there are people who helped me so, so much. Lester Shoalts has been incredibly helpful to me personally. All these people out there who are so kind and generous of spirit. That's what's important in life."

While he's taking things slowly right now as he continues to recuperate, Saracino is looking forward to getting back to work. Next year, he will celebrate 38 years in politics. "Sometimes you don't give your body a chance to slow down."

Christmas came early to the Guild Hall last Saturday. The iconic building on Charlotte St. played host to a designer craft show and sale as well as a Christmas tree-decorating competition. Trees decorated by the Port Cares Reach Out Centre, Over Youth, Port Colborne High School and Lakeshore Catholic High School went up against trees from the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses for the top spot. For a loonie, patrons to the hall were allowed to vote for the tree of their choice.

The event was part of this year's house tour, which included five homes in the city. Local artisans and designer craftspeople were busy selling pottery, jewelry, art and Christmas goodies. All the proceeds from the event went to the Guild Hall to support Port's youth.

Christmas House Tour Fundraising Committee Chair Gloria Simon called it a success. The owner of Lakebreeze Bed and Breakfast said the event raised between \$6,500 and \$7,000.

"Considering the current (economic) climate, we did very well," Simon said.

The Port Cares Reach Out Centre ended up with the winning decorated tree so congratulations to all the good folks there who were responsible for it.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@concego.ca.